

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 23 without prejudice to applicant later filing related divisional and/or continuation applications thereto; and amend claims 5, 10-16, 19 and 22, matter to be added is shown in underline and matter to be deleted is shown in strikethrough; and add new claims 24-28, as follows:

1. (original) A pallet comprising:

a first portion having an outer surface and an inner surface at least a portion of which is distant the outer surface; and

a second portion having an outer surface and an inner surface at least a portion of which is distant the outer surface, wherein the inner surface of the first portion indigitates with the inner surface of the second portion.
2. (original) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the inner surface of the first portion and the inner surface of the second portion comprise complementarily shaped surfaces.
3. (original) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the inner surfaces of the first and second portions each have an undulating form.
4. (original) The pallet of claim 1 wherein inner surfaces of the first and second portions each comprise a succession of curved protrusions.
5. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the second portion comprises at least two channels ~~segments~~ that are closer to the first portion than the remainder of the second portion.
6. (original) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the second portion comprises at least two feet.

7. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the second portion comprises a series of ridges and grooves and includes a plurality of feet.

8. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 7 wherein the inner surfaces of the first and second portions each comprise a succession of undulations ~~curves~~ having rises and falls that run perpendicular to the series of ridges and grooves on the outer surface of the second portion and further comprising ~~tine~~ accepting channels in the second portion.

9. (original) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the first portion is generally planar.

10. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein: a) the inner surface of the first portion is molded to the inner surface of the second portion; b) the pallet is formed from puncture-resistant plastics; and c) tack off points are located along peaks and valleys of the first and second portions

11. (currently amended) A pallet comprising:

a pallet body including:

a first portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein the inner surface has a portion that is displaced from the outer surface that exhibits corrugations ~~having at least a portion of which that is distant the outer surface and having a corrugating form; and~~

a second portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein the inner surface has a portion that is displaced from the outer surface that exhibits corrugations ~~having at least a portion of which that is distant the outer surface and having a corrugating form, and~~

wherein the corrugations of the inner surface of the first portion are interdigitated and is connected to the corrugations of the inner surface of the second portion ~~between~~ ~~each respective corrugating form.~~

12. (currently amended) A pallet of claim 11 wherein the inner surface of the first portion and is molded to the inner surface of the second portion are connected by molding one to the other such that the corrugations of the inner surfaces of the first and second portions interlock and bond to one another.

13. (currently amended) A method of forming a pallet comprising the steps of:

a) blow molding a first portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein the inner surface has a first undulating portion that is displaced from the outer surface at least a portion of which is distant the outer surface; and

b) blow molding a second portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein the inner surface has a second undulating portion that is displaced from the outer surface, and wherein the second undulating portion is interdigitated with the first undulating portion such that the first and second undulating portions are interlocked to one another at least a portion of which is distant the outer surface around the first portion.

14. (currently amended) A method of claim 13 wherein one of the first portion and the second portion is inserted into a mold shaping the other one of the first portion and the second portion prior to the blow molding of the other one of the first portion and the second portion, such that the first and second undulating portions bond in complementary interlocked relation to one another.

15. (currently amended) A blow-molded pallet comprising:

a) a bottom portion having a first bottom surface and a first top surface wherein said top surface has a first set of channels and protrusions;

b) an upper portion having a second top surface and a second bottom surface having a second set of channels and protrusions; and

wherein the second set of channels and protrusions of the upper portion respectively interlock with the first set of protrusions and channels ~~respectively~~ of the bottom portion.

16. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15, wherein one of the first and second sets of channels and protrusions is molded in complementary interdigitated engagement to the other to connect the upper portion to the bottom portion ~~the upper portion and the bottom portion are fused by applying heat to one of the portions and pressing the two portions together.~~

17. (original) The pallet of claim 15, wherein at least one portion contains cavities and wherein the other portion contains an extending member which is inserted into the cavity during molding to lock one portion to another portion.

18. (original) The pallet of claim 15, wherein one portion contains a locking member, and wherein the other portion contains a receiving member so that the locking member and receiving member communicate to lock one portion to the other portion.

19. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15, wherein one of said bottom and upper portions include a plurality of tack off points where the bottom and upper portions are connected to one another ~~portion has at least one tack off point which allows the upper portion to become attached to the bottom portion.~~

20. (original) The pallet of claim 15, wherein the upper portion includes at least one leg; and wherein the bottom portion includes one foot having a hollow portion for receiving a foot of the upper portion.

21. (original) The pallet of claim 15, further comprising an upper portion first end and an upper portion second end included with the upper portion; and a bottom portion first end and a bottom portion second end included with the bottom portion, wherein at least the upper first end mates with the bottom first end.

22. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15, wherein one of upper and bottom portions is molded to the other such that the interlocked first and second sets of protrusions thermally bond to one another ~~the upper portion and the bottom portion are fused during molding.~~

23. (cancelled) The pallet of claim 15, further comprising a) a lip extending from the pallet; b) radiused comers on edges of the pallet; and c) a third blow molded portion.

24. (new) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the inner surfaces of the first and second portions each comprise corrugated portions that mount in interdigitated relation to one another.

25. (new) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the second portion comprises a plurality of feet and a plurality of channels whereby the pallet can be accessed from a plurality of sides for raising and lowering.

26. (new) A pallet comprising:

a first portion having a generally flat outer surface and an inner surface including a plurality of undulating ridges and valleys displaced from the outer surface;

a second portion having an outer surface including a plurality of depending feet and intervening channels and an inner surface including a plurality of undulating ridges and valleys displaced from the outer surface; and
wherein the undulating ridges and valleys of the inner surfaces of the second portion are molded in complementary interdigitation to the undulating ridges and valleys of the first portion.

27. (new) The pallet of claim 26 wherein the outer surface of the second portion includes a plurality of undulating ridges and valleys.

28. (new) The pallet of claim 27 wherein a plurality of the undulating ridges and valleys of the inner surface of the first portion run orthogonal to the undulating ridges and valleys of the second portion.